

Message Text

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ICA:NEA:RICHARDCURTISS (INFO.)
ICA:ECA:IC:GILBERTANDERSON (DRAFT)
ICA:GC:RSWAN (IN SUBST.)
ECA:IC:HCMACDOUGALL (DRAFT) INFO.
NEA:EGY:KHONAN
L/NEA:DSMALL

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SUBJECT: GOE REQUEST THAT FAROUK EL-BAZ ACT AS SCIENTIFIC
ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT SADAT

REFERENCE: CAIRO'S 12656, 14581

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE SUGGESTED TEXT OF AMBASSADOR EILTS'
REPLY TO THE LETTER OF MAY 8 FROM FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL
ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. "YOUR EXCELLENCY,

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"I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT DR. S. DILLON RIPLEY,
SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND DR. FAROUK
EL-BAZ, RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR EARTH AND
PLANETARY STUDIES IN THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL AIR AND
SPACE MUSEUM, ARE HAPPY TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST OF
PRESIDENT SADAT THAT DR. EL-BAZ PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC ADVICE,
WHEN REQUESTED, AS A COURTESY OF THE SMITHSONIAN.

"THIS ASSIGNMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH DR. EL-BAZ'S RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE SMITHSONIAN TO FOSTER 'THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG MEN.' IT IS UNDERSTOOD

THAT HE SHALL BE CALLED UPON TO VISIT EGYPT PERIODICALLY AND THAT COSTS OF DR. EL-BAZ'S TRAVEL AND MAINTENANCE WHILE FULFILLING THIS FUNCTION WILL BE BORNE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT.

"DR. RIPLEY HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT THE SMITHSONIAN WOULD BE HAPPY TO FACILITATE THIS WORK OF DR. EL-BAZ BY PROVIDING LIAISON WITH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY SHOULD IT BE DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

"PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

3. THE SMITHSONIAN HAS ALTERED THE LANGUAGE DESCRIBING DR. EL-BAZ'S ROLE FROM THAT USED IN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL'S LETTER, NAMELY PRESIDENT SADAT'S "ADVISOR FOR SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS" WHICH SOUNDS LIKE A TITLE ASSIGNED BY A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, TO "PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC ADVICE" WHICH AVOIDS ANY SUGGESTION THAT DR. EL-BAZ, A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, IS SERVING AS AN OFFICIAL OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

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4. DR. EL-BAZ ANTICIPATES THAT THE ADVISORY ROLE MAY REQUIRE TWO OR MORE TRIPS PER YEAR OF A WEEK'S DURATION LIKE THAT IN MARCH TO THE WESTERN OASES.

5. THE SMITHSONIAN ACCEPTS DR. EL-BAZ'S FUNCTION AS APPROPRIATE TO HIS DUTIES IN SUPPORT OF THE "INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG MEN," BUT, EXPECTS THE GOE TO PAY FOR HIS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND PER DIEM. DR. EL-BAZ IS TO RECEIVE NO SALARY SUPPLEMENT.

6. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT ADDRESS TICKETS FOR DR. EL-BAZ'S TRAVEL TO THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560, RATHER THAN TO DR. EL-BAZ IN PERSON, IN ORDER TO UNDERLINE THE OFFICIAL NATURE OF HIS MISSION AND TO AVOID ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE TRAVEL IS OF A PERSONAL NATURE. VANCE

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